



Legislative Bulletin.....February 5, 2007

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 3

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.R. 433 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1700 Main Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the “Scipio A. Jones Post Office Building” (*Snyder, D-AZ*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, February 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 433 would designate the U.S. Postal Service facility located at 1700 Main Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the “Scipio A. Jones Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: According to various internet sources, Scipio Africanus Jones (named after a Roman general) was born into slavery in August, 1863 in Smith Township, just south of Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Jones gained his freedom at an early age, and went on to receive his bachelor’s degree in 1887. He self-educated himself as a lawyer, and passed the Arkansas bar exam in 1889.

Mr. Jones became a prominent African-American Republican and held various leadership positions, including serving as a delegate to the Republican National Convention several times. He later was appointed as a state and federal judge, and argued a famous case known as the “Elaine 12,” successfully defending twelve black sharecroppers sentenced to death for participation in the Elaine Race Riot in 1919. Judge Scipio Jones died in Little Rock, Arkansas, on March 2, 1943.

Committee Action: H.R. 433 was introduced on January 12, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 433 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.Res. 69 — Recognizing and honoring Benny Parsons and expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives to his family on his death (Hayes, R-NC)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Monday, February 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 69 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- 1) “recognizes Benny Parsons as one of the greatest race car drivers ever to participate in the sport of auto racing and recognizes his many contributions to the Nation throughout his lifetime;

- 2) “honors Benny Parsons for transcending the sport of auto racing to become a role model as both a talented competitor and mentor and as a loving husband and father; and
- 3) “extends its deepest condolences to the family of Benny Parsons.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “Benny Parsons was born in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on July 12, 1941, and resided in the towns of Ellerbe and Concord, North Carolina in the Eighth Congressional District;
- “Benny Parsons was the first ARCA Champion inducted into the International Sports Hall of Fame;
- “Benny Parsons had an extraordinary career as a National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) driver, winning 21 races, including the 1975 Daytona 500;
- “in 1998 Benny Parsons was named one of the 50 Greatest Drivers in NASCAR History;
- “after a successful career as a driver, Benny Parsons developed a successful career in broadcasting, further expanding his sport through his insight and commentary;
- “Benny Parsons passed away on January 16, 2007, prompting friend and former competitor Darrell Waltrip to state that ‘Benny Parsons was the kindest, sweetest, most considerate person I have ever known. He was a great champion, a great ambassador for our sport but more than that, he was a great person. He exemplified that good guys can be winners too’.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 69 was introduced on January 17, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.R. 577 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 South Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas, as the “Sergeant Henry Ybarra III Post Office Building” (*Doggett, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled for consideration on Monday, February 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 577 would designate the U.S. Postal Facility located at 3903 South Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas, as the “Sergeant Henry Ybarra III Post Office Building.”

Additional Background: Sergeant Henry Ybarra III died in Iraq on September 11, 2003, when a tire on a military truck exploded as he was changing it. Sergeant Ybarra was 32 years old, and was married with three children.



Sergeant Ybarra, from Austin, Texas, had been serving in the military for over 10

years, and his mother was quoted as saying, “Since he was a young kid he wanted to fight for our country. He died defending the freedom (he) believed in.” Sergeant Ybarra was assigned to D Troop, 6th Squadron, 6th Cavalry, Illesheim, Germany.

For additional information about Sergeant Ybarra, please visit:
<http://www.militarycity.com/valor/256762.html>.

Committee Action: H.R. 577 was introduced on January 19, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO score of H.R. 577 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.R. 514 — To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16150 Aviation Loop Drive in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Sergeant Lea Robert Mills Brooksville Aviation Branch Post Office” (*Brown-Waite, R-FL*)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Summary: H.R. 514 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16150 Aviation Loop Drive in Brooksville, Florida, as the “Sergeant Lea Robert Mills Brooksville Aviation Branch Post Office.”



Additional Information: Sergeant Lea Robert Mills, age 21, was killed in April 2006, while during combat operations against enemy forces in Al Anbar province, Iraq.

Committee Action: H.R. 514 was introduced in the House on January 17, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The only costs associated with a postal facility renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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H.Res. 94 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Consumer Protection Week (*Hinojosa, D-TX*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Summary: H.Res. 94 would resolve that the Congress:

- “supports the goals and ideals of the Ninth Annual National Consumer Protection Week, including raising public awareness about the importance of consumer protection;
- “requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing protection for consumers of all ages and walks of life; and
- “encourages people across the Nation to take advantage of the wealth of consumer protection information that can enhance confidence in the marketplace.”

The bill lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “informed consumers are better equipped to see through frauds and deceptions, whether they take the form of questionable claims in an advertisement, offers that come in the mail or e-mail, or schemes designed to appear to be risk-free;
- “the Federal Government provides many educational resources and programs to help people protect themselves against fraud by supplying them with information about their options in the marketplace;
- “the Federal Trade Commission and more than 100 other Federal agencies have collaborated on a website, www.consumer.gov, which provides helpful information ranging from how credit ratings work to how to buy a new home;
- “expanding access to information about financial services provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth, and is likely to reduce predatory lending;
- “public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates and consumer protection for people of all ages and

walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one counseling for individuals.”

Committee Action: H.Res. 94 was introduced on January 24, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Con.Res. 35 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (*Lee, D-CA*)

Order of Business: The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Monday, February 5, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

Note: H.Con.Res. 35 is being considered as *amended*. This summary represents the amended version.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 35 would resolve that Congress:

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and recognizes the seventh anniversary of observing such day;
- “encourages State and local governments, including their public health agencies, to recognize such day, to publicize its importance among their communities, and to encourage individuals to undergo testing for HIV;
- “encourages national, State, and local media organizations to carry messages in support of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day;
- “supports full and equitable funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006;
- “applauds the codification of the Minority AIDS Initiative within the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act;
- “supports appropriate funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment;
- “supports the strengthening of stable African-American communities;
- “supports reducing the impact of incarceration as a driver of new HIV infections within the African-American community;
- “supports effective and comprehensive HIV prevention education programs to promote the early identification of HIV through voluntary routine testing, and to connect those in need to treatment and care as early as possible;
- “supports reducing the number of HIV infections in the African-American community resulting from injection drug use; and
- “supports efforts to link those infected with HIV to accessible care and treatment options.”

The bill lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States has shifted primarily to the African-American community and other communities of color;
- “the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has stated that, at the end of 2005, over 188,000 African Americans were living with AIDS, representing 44 percent of all cases in the United States;
- “since the beginning of the epidemic, African Americans have accounted for nearly 400,000 or 42 percent of the estimated 953,000 AIDS cases diagnosed, and through December 2005, an estimated 211,559 African Americans with AIDS have died;
- “the CDC estimates that, in 2005, African-American women accounted for over 66 percent of all HIV/AIDS cases among women, and were 25 times more likely to be infected than White women;
- “the CDC estimates that 73 percent of all children born to HIV infected mothers in 2004 were African-American;
- “the CDC has determined that the leading cause of HIV infection among African-American men is sexual contact with other men, followed by intravenous drug use and heterosexual contact;
- “in 1998, the Congress and the Clinton Administration created the National Minority AIDS Initiative to help coordinate funding, build capacity, and provide prevention, care, and treatment services within the African-American, Hispanic, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American communities;
- “on February 23, 2001, the first annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day was organized, with the slogan ‘Get Educated, Get Involved, Get Tested’; and
- “February 7 of each year is now recognized as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.”

Additional Information: Although this resolution is designed to increase awareness of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the black community, last week the House voted to defund an AIDS program, which has demonstrated significant success in reducing baby AIDS cases, a large majority of which are African American. H.J.Res. 20, Making Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007, which passed in the House last week, defunded (prohibits spending on) the Ryan White early diagnosis grant program, known as “Baby AIDS.” Baby AIDS provided early testing and diagnostic programs and supported successful initiatives that have dramatically reduced cases of baby AIDS. Of note, according to the CDC, of the children living with HIV/AIDS who received HIV from their mother, two-thirds are African-American. In addition, in 2005, CDC estimates that 141 infants were infected with HIV perinatally, 91 of whom (or 65%) were African American.

Committee Action: H.Con.Res. 35 was introduced in the House on January 18, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which took no official action.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution authorizes no expenditure. However, the resolution “supports full and equitable funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006.” CBO estimated that the Ryan White Act of 2006, authorized the appropriation of more than \$2 billion.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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